

The Oregonian

SUBSCRIPTION RATES. INVARIABLE IN ADVANCE. (By Mail.) Daily, Sunday included, six months, \$5.00...

bar politics make an exit and find their way through ways that could have been foretold—would have been deemed fairly tales.

SHALL WE ABOLISH EQUAL TAXATION? Among the arguments, or statements put forth by those who advocate amendment of the Constitution in order to change our system of assessment and taxation is the following:

One hundred feet square sold in Portland on January 22 for \$9,000, or at the rate of more than \$2,000,000,000 for 640 acres. The latter amount is about ten times the assessed value of the farms of Oregon.

Such stuff is a fair gauge of the thought that offers this amendment. The specific instance is not true. It is as immeasurable distance from truth. The 100 feet square, referred to, was not sold for \$90,000. It has not been sold at all. It would not bring \$200,000 today. Even this it is true, is a large sum. But it was not "made by the producers of the state"—except in small degree, and that indirectly. It was made by a man who has concentrated the hard work of a long life in Portland, and has done his full share toward making the city what it is.

Sometimes a deck of cards is harmless and sometimes not. It depends on circumstances. Wise parents rather incline to permit their boys and girls to play with cards at home of an evening, partly because the amusement they supply is innocent in itself, partly in the hope that familiarity will lessen the baneful attraction of the forbidden and destroy that seductive veil of mystery which lures many strictly nurtured youths to their ruin.

But it is safe to say that whenever parents feel the faintest inclination to permit their children to play cards it is better for both young and old to forbid it. The harm comes not at all from the game, which is neutral like any other, but from violating a rule of conscience. Even when the rules of conscience are illegal and tyrannous, they must be obeyed so long as their violation is acknowledged, no matter how slightly. To defy one's conscience is always harmful, even when its commands are foolish.

It is only when conscience offers no objection that a person can dance or play cards or frequent the theater without moral guilt. Solitaires are only for the emancipated; but there is a lurking danger even for them. It is the danger of excess. Between the Puritanism which forbids all amusement and the libertinism which makes life nothing but a quest for amusement there is a sane middle ground where serious and trivial things are assigned their proper places.

One may say without reservation that the place for playing cards is not at school. The Medford boys who sought to pass their noon hour in dealing and shuffling were violating not only a universal rule of every decent educational institution, but they were also in personal rebellion against their teacher. A boy who takes cards to school knows that he is doing wrong. He knows that he is outraging a sentiment of both teachers and parents, and that he is setting a scandalous example for his schoolmates. The atmosphere of guilt which surrounds anything like card-playing at school doubles its attractiveness, makes it irresistibly fascinating, so that it spreads among the scholars like a contagious disease. Lessons will not be thought of so long as the lure of the game exists. Those who are in the secret of the play are necessarily united in a guild which spirals against the teacher and the school because for them a hot-bed of vice.

If parents support their children in defiance of school discipline and the general moral sentiment of the community, it makes matters all the worse. It is hard enough to hold boys under authority when they are in harmony with the school, but when the home allies itself with the unruly will of the boy, then his ultimate ruin is almost certain. Parents who uphold their children in rebellion against right discipline have much to answer for in our day. The terrifying increase of juvenile crime, which is traced directly to this cause. Still sadder is the almost certain sorrow which the ungrateful youth brings down upon the head of his foolishly indulgent parent. One may guess that at Medford there are two factions in the district. One of them is perpetually Puritanical; the other is more or less emancipated. The children of the latter have heard much at home about the tyranny of Puritanism; they have heard how innocent card-playing is and how foolish it is to forbid harmless games. They then argue that if cards are harmless at home, so they must be at school. But the arguments are specious. Boys may do many things at home which are wrong at school. Cards are innocent at home if they violate no rule of the home; but at school they do always violate a rule, and a very essential one, and therefore they are not harmless. For growing boys the demands of the school are quite as important as those of the home, and often more so.

However innocent cards may be in themselves, they are not a proper amusement for the school. Boys at school ought to spend their recesses in active exercise out of doors. Both their bodily and their moral health demand this. The youth who sits within doors when the commonsense is out at play is usually a boy to be shunned. There is something awry in his moral nature. The chances are ten to one that his mind is occupied with unwholesome thoughts. Of course he may be a genius brooding over an immortal poem, but it is much more likely that he is conjuring up those imaginings with which Satan is always ready to fill an idle brain. The games of cards which rebellious boys play at school are first cousins to these unwholesome visions of idleness. They are tainted, not only with the guilt of revolt against proper authority, but with the much worse, they are rank with the infection of incipient vice. These illicit games are part of that drama of guilt which begins in a morbid imagination, merges gradually into deeds, and ends in the penitentiary had not been virtually abolished by the scholastic sentimentality of our higher courts.

One is fain to dwell upon this seemingly trivial affair at Medford, where the school directors have sustained some boys in rebellion against their

teacher, because it is typical of a moral disease which seems to pervade the whole country. It is the same disease which broke out at Athens in the period of her decadence and which Socrates lost his life in trying to correct. An exaggerated individualism is the best name for it, perhaps; an individualism which holds that every person should be a law unto himself, be bound by no rules except his own desires and ambitions, and acknowledge no rights in others which conflict with his own appetites. This is the old gospel of Gorgias and his colleagues in the Academy. Of course it is anarchy of the most destructive type, but they disguise it under fine names and preach it with alluring speciousness. Still anarchy is anarchy, and it is instructive to see it showing forth now at the head of the great Methodist University at Syracuse, now at the little village school at Medford. There has infected the Nation. Can it be eliminated without surgery?

LET US WAIT AWHILE. The northeast part of Portland is growing with great rapidity. It may be conceded that it is desirable that every reasonable facility be provided for communication with the West Side, but it is doubtful if the proposed bridge is one of those which the Willamette River ought to be undertaken at this time. A high bridge, terminating on the West Side about Fourteenth street and on the East Side somewhere near Russell street, or in its vicinity, is suggested, so that river traffic may not be interrupted and open the door to commercialism of the worst sort. The college which could raise the most money to buy men would always have a winning team, while its scholarship would deteriorate. But it ought to be possible, on the other hand, to detect these cases and punish them without penalizing all changes of college residence.

One of the defects of our college system is the slight interchange of students and teachers which takes place among them. Movement from one school to another should be facile; facilities would do well to encourage it. Each school has some singular men, and it is to be regretted that these men should not be able to share with advantage. A residence of one year at McMinnville, one at Forest Grove, one at Corvallis and one at Eugene would probably give a better education than four at either place, and the rules of the faculties would display a broader interest in the students welfare if they recognized the fact. Do what we may to avoid it, every college left to itself tends toward provincial narrowness. The great merit of the elective system in studies is the competition it sets up among professors. The incompetent man is sure to be eliminated. It is the dread of this which underlies the opposition to the elective system in most back schools. Just as election among studies stimulates teachers, so election among colleges would stimulate entire faculties to make their work broad and progressive.

IN THE REPUBLICAN PRIMARIES OF 1906 12,787 Republicans nominated Bourne for Senator. The votes for other Republican candidates numbered 29,991. Bourne therefore was nominated by 30 per cent of the Republicans who voted in the primaries. The number of Republicans who went to the election in June was between 50,000 and 55,000, as shown by the vote for the Republican candidates for Supreme Judge, Secretary of State, State Treasurer and State Printer. In Oregon there are probably 65,000 Republicans. Bourne therefore was nominated by 30 per cent of the Republican vote in the primaries, 25 per cent of the Republican vote in the election, and less than 10 per cent of the Republican strength of the state. Mr. Bourne evidently was not wanted at that time for Senator by the people of Oregon—60 per cent of whose voters are Republicans. The result of the election confirms this view. The Republican plurality, normally 30,000 or more, dwindled to 3121 in his case. But for the fact that the people of Oregon did not want a Democratic Senator—though they accept a Democratic Governor and numerous Democratic Judges, Prosecuting Attorneys, Sheriffs and Mayors—Mr. Gearin would have defeated Mr. Bourne.

When the 50,000 or 55,000 Republicans, who constitute the majority of the voters of Oregon, went to the polls in 1906, to elect a Republican Senator, they found on the ballots the names of two men, neither of whom they wanted at that time for Senator—one was Gearin, Democrat; the other Bourne, Republican; the one nominated unanimously by the Democrats, who number not many more than 30,000 and are a minority of the voting population; the other nominated by 12,877 Republicans out of a total of 65,000.

These matters are stated merely for the purpose of pointing out that the people are likely to fall again to nominate their choice for senator, under the primary law, and to designate truly their choice to the Legislature. Scarcely anybody approves the present method of electing Senators by Legislatures. It has produced many evils and has outraged the public in every state. But it will not suffice for the element that adheres to the Statement-No. 1 method, to declare the opponents of that statement foes of the direct election method. The Statement-No. 1 system does not designate the "people's choice," and is humbug. It does not matter much, perhaps, for the policies of the Nation, whether Judges, District Attorneys, Sheriffs and Sheriffs are, in each case, under the primary law, the "people's choice," since one man can perform the duties of a local officer as well as another, whether he is Democrat or Republican. But when the

people of Oregon take part in the affairs of the Nation they must elect on party lines strictly, or they will court their heels outside the councils of the Nation. For this reason the scheme to put up a minority Republican candidate for Senator against George Chamberlain, Democrat, and make Chamberlain the "people's choice" by Statement No. 1, is humbug. Some persons say, "Well, if Republicans cannot put up a good, strong man, they ought to be defeated." But what Republicans should or will put up the strong man? Do any of them dare? Does any candidate dare to have them do it? Would not that be called "fine" and machine politics? Was not the direct primary law framed to prevent that thing?

COLLEGE ATHLETICS AT WALLA WALLA. While there seems to have been a pretty wide representation of the colleges at the Walla Walla conference upon college athletics, it might have been wider with advantage. The schools at Newberg, Forest Grove and McMinnville, as well as the denominational colleges in Washington should have sent delegates, but Whitman alone of such institutions did so. The higher institutions under denominational control need regulation of athletics quite as badly as the state schools do. They should have participated in the effort to adopt uniform rules for clean and wholesome sport. If our Coast colleges can succeed in eliminating that commercialism which infests and perverts intercollegiate athletics, they will do a work which the country will gratefully imitate. Swarthmore College thought it worth while to reject a gift of \$3,000,000 for the sake of retaining its competitive athletics. This indicates that among the colleges the subject is deemed important. The outstanding moral question is not favorable, but it is undeniable that the moral and physical health of the best part of our population is intimately dependent upon wholesome sport in college.

The new rule that a student must reside a year in his new college after a transfer before he can place on an intercollegiate team is one of those efforts to evade a difficult duty by sweeping legislation which generally do more harm than good. When a man changes his college for the sole purpose of playing on the team, of course he ought to be balked of his purpose, because such practices would open the door to commercialism of the worst sort. The college which could raise the most money to buy men would always have a winning team, while its scholarship would deteriorate. But it ought to be possible, on the other hand, to detect these cases and punish them without penalizing all changes of college residence.

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structural form and richness of foliage the elm has many rivals, but no peer. The transformation of Kings into ashes is much less frequent now than it was in the old days when the poet aptly wrote "Uncle's loss the head that wears a crown," but even in this enlightened twentieth century most of the monarchs of the Old World have ever before them the fear of sudden and awful death. "The boast of heraldry, the pomp of power," appeals to some natures, and there will never be a shortage of the available timber for Kings. And yet if good-natured, gourd-mindling, fat Carlos, who was borne to the tomb in Lisbon yesterday, had any time for regrets in the last few awful moments before the bullets of the assassins completed their work, he undoubtedly wished that he could have changed places with the humblest of his subjects, and the mourning Queen, wife and mother, will for the remainder of her life suffer a grief too passionate for expression. Royalty has its drawbacks, and its gilt soon tarnishes.

The American "muckraking" is very pleasing to our "nice" neighbors across the pond. Paris Temps says that "financial, administrative and political corruptions in the United States undoubtedly have attained astounding proportions." We read similar expressions a few years ago from the English papers when the Chicago packing-house scandals were being advertised throughout the world. Subsequent investigation discloses the fact that the Chicago institutions were nice, clean and admirably managed in comparison with similar establishments which turned out "the roast beef of old England." If Temps published all that was "financial and politically rotten" in France the subject might prove more favorable than that in this country. The United States presents the unique spectacle of telling all the world how bad conditions are with us. Other countries keep their troubles to themselves.

Ex-Governor Pennypacker, of Pennsylvania, one of those self-anointed moralists who are profoundly distressed at the wickedness of the world in which they live, has been drawn into the State Capitol fraud in the Keystone State. Testimony at the trial of the grafters who robbed the state shows that the Governor joined in a letter administering a coat of "whiteness" intended to cover up the shortcomings of the architect. This highly respectable ex-Governor is the same Pennypacker who a few years ago attempted to muzzle the newspapers of Pennsylvania with a libel law which made the old blue laws of New England look pale and white by comparison. Perhaps Pennypacker, even in those days, had a vision of some coming event that was already casting its shadow before.

Beach Hargis, who murdered his father, Judge Hargis, at Jackson, Ky., is said to express no regret over the tragedy. This in a degree is surprising, and yet it should not be forgotten that the young man knew full well how long his father's death had been overdue. If Satan has kept in close touch with the affairs of Breath-it County, Kentucky, it is questionable whether Hargis pere is resting today where religiously inclined people think he is, for nothing that has ever been credited to Satan and all of his aggregation exceeds in "devilry" the crimes of this twentieth-century monster. The ruler of the lower regions might well reject Hargis as an "undesirable citizen" even for a place not noted for its pleasant surroundings.

The final settlement of the immigration question between Japan and the United States is held up on account of a wide discrepancy in the statistics of the two countries showing the number of Japanese entering the United States. An investigation is now under way to determine whether or not fraud has been practiced in making immigration returns. The Japanese have been illegally entering the United States from both northern and southern boundaries has long been an open secret, and, as thousands of the little brown men have entered this country by fraudulent means, it is expected too much to suppose that the statistics bearing on the matter would be strictly accurate.

The report that Bryan made \$52,000 last year from his lectures is seized upon by Harper's Weekly as the subject for a cartoon representing the peerless leader as a bloated plutocrat. And yet, with all his faults, Bryan was well worth \$52,000 to the people of the United States. If he did nothing else, he made such men as Fairbanks, Knox, Foraker and Cannon impossible Republican nominees for the Presidency. And that alone was worth \$52,000.

Ten years hence there will be many a clean, thrifty and productive apple orchard where today there are old, diseased and worthless trees. Each of these orchards will be a living testimonial of the value of the work of M. O. Lownsdale in teaching the farmers of the Willamette Valley how to rejuvenate old and neglected trees.

Henry has now convicted every man in Oregon who prosecuted. The remaining land-fraud defendants will doubtless regard this information as both interesting and important.

To a mere spectator, the auto race through Alaska and Siberia looks like a hot-air proposition. But maybe it will be the quality to get through this time of year.

Taff's chances would be immeasurably improved if the Philippines had as many votes as New York in the Chicago convention.

They who take unto themselves traditional leap-year privileges should not overlook the exceptional week ending on the 14th.

President Roosevelt cut the coat for dishonest business men. None should put it on unless it fits them.

No complaint is heard this week about weather interfering with work on the farm.

STANDARD VERSE

ANNABEL LEE. It was many and many a year ago, In a kingdom by the sea, That a maiden lived, whom you may know, By the name of Annabel Lee;

I was a child and she was a child, In this kingdom by the sea; But we loved with a love that was more than love,

The American "muckraking" is very pleasing to our "nice" neighbors across the pond. Paris Temps says that "financial, administrative and political corruptions in the United States undoubtedly have attained astounding proportions."

Ex-Governor Pennypacker, of Pennsylvania, one of those self-anointed moralists who are profoundly distressed at the wickedness of the world in which they live, has been drawn into the State Capitol fraud in the Keystone State.

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